

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph initially entered on page 1, line 4 (after the title) by the Preliminary Amendment dated July 8, 1999, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION--

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/978,450 filed November 25, 1997, and now issued as U.S. Patent 5,990,479 on November 23, 1999.--

Please replace the Abstract beginning at page 30, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A semiconductor nanocrystal compound is described capable of linking to an affinity molecule. The compound comprises (1) a semiconductor nanocrystal capable of emitting electromagnetic radiation and/or absorbing energy, and/or scattering or diffracting electromagnetic radiation - when excited by an electromagnetic radiation source or a particle beam; and (2) at least one linking agent, having a first portion linked to the semiconductor nanocrystal and a second portion capable of linking to an affinity molecule. The compound is linked to an affinity molecule to form a semiconductor nanocrystal probe capable of bonding with a detectable substance. Subsequent exposure to excitation energy will excite the semiconductor nanocrystal in the probe, causing the emission of electromagnetic radiation. Further described are processes for respectively: making the semiconductor nanocrystal compound; making the semiconductor nanocrystal probe; and using the probe to determine the presence of a detectable substance in a material.--